

The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, *where diversity is treasured.*
A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Inside

Board Notes.....	2
Sunday Collection Schedule.....	2
From McGregor Boulevard.....	3
<i>by Rev. CJ McGregor</i>	
Joys and Sorrows.....	3
Virtual Happenings at All Faiths.....	4
April 2021 Calendar.....	5
April Sunday Service Schedule.....	6
Introducing Chantel Rhodes.....	6
Child & Youth Programs Schedule.....	7
Climate Action Team News.....	8
LIFE News and Updates.....	8
Treasurer's Report.....	9
Heart for the Homeless Team News.....	9
Results of Annual Meeting.....	10
Odyssey with Annely Hudanick.....	10
April ACMA Concert Lineup.....	10
A Message from UUA President.....	11
General Assembly Registration.....	12

Happy Spring!



2021 Annual Meeting Results

Board of Directors Appointments:

Ernie Reid, Director (new)
Rachel Spiller, Vice Chair (continuing)
Ed Elrod, Secretary (continuing)
Peter Erickson, Director (continuing)

Nominating Committee Appointments:

Janet Falk (new)
Dottie Mayol (new)
Susan Meissner (continuing)

- **Bylaws Amendments Approved**
- **Budget Approved at \$235,023**
- **Child/Youth Director Position Approved**

All Faiths is grateful for the service and dedication of our exceptional leaders

On March 17, 2021, your Board of Directors met at 1:00 p.m. All members participated via Zoom.

The Board agreed to continue the partial reopening of services with up to 15 people attending. Some services have had less than 15 requesting to attend. The safety protocols (temperature screens, social distancing, etc.) are working well. Contact Regina to be included in the lottery to attend a service.

The Board discussed the process for the March 28 Annual Meeting and agreed to follow basically the same procedures as the March 14 workshop. The workshop, with a mix of in person attendees and Zoom attendees, worked well. It allowed participants to ask questions. Following the meeting we will evaluate improvements for future events.

The Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) program will be changing.

Mary Corrigan has been a wonderful leader of this program for several years; for the past year she served as Director in a consultant capacity. The program scope and the number of participants have grown significantly under her leadership. Although Mary has resigned from the position to give herself time to pursue other interests, she will continue to help and mentor the program. The Board is very appreciative of all that Mary has done for the youth program.

After asking several members and friends about their interest in being the Director of CYRE, one person, Chantel Rhodes, expressed interest in being considered for the position. A committee of five interviewed Chantel and recommended her to the Board for the position. The Board voted to hire her as the Director of CYRE if the position is approved at the Annual Meeting. Chantel will fill the position as a staff member.

The Pledge Drive was successful in achieving 86% of the pledge goal. The Stewardship Committee has been calling those who did not submit pledge cards. If you failed to return a pledge card, we will still accept them. Either mail or email it to the office. Call the office if you have questions or need another pledge form.

The Share the Plate recipients for 2021-22 were approved by the Board as recommended by the Finance Committee.

The Board greatly appreciates the many volunteers whose support helps keep the Congregation running smoothly. For instance, Becky Ross has been revising and updating our web site; Marge and Bob DiGalbo check temperatures and process attendees for each Sunday service; Brian Bigelow cut tree limbs that were overhanging the church roof and removed other shrubbery; Judy Alberda and her team of volunteers work each week to keep the

grounds looking neat and the numerous team and committee leaders and members supporting our mission and programs.

We have been collecting information for conducting an on-line auction as a major fund raiser. Our biggest problem is finding a coordinator/leader for the event. We need someone from our Congregation to lead the event. There are volunteers to help, but we need a leader to make this happen. If you can help coordinate this vital fundraiser, please contact the office or me.

The Board approved proceeding with a capital reserves study to provide information for a long-term financial plan. The study identifies large maintenance and capital costs that we will encounter over the next 10 to 20 years, and the amount of money that must be reserved each year to meet those costs. The study is being paid by a generous special donation for that purpose.

(continued on page 3)

Mission Statement

“All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is a welcoming, caring community, seeking diversity, practicing openness, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth. “We are working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate world.”

All Faiths Collection Schedule

Share-the-Plate (please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check.)

- April 11** One Tree (Climate Action Team)
- May 9** Operation Joy (Back to School - Part I)
- June 13** The Change Program – (Racial Justice Team)
- July 11** Operation Joy (Back to School - Part II)
- August 8** Angel Wings (Homeless Team)

McGregor Clinic - T/B/D

The March Share the Plate raised \$385 for Angel Wings!





My sons are now 28 and 31, I think. Part of me believes that I never really know their ages because I don't want to admit it. If they get older, so do I. When they were children Easter was a big deal. Do you remember being privileged enough and given an Easter basket on Easter morning and going to church with a belly ache from over indulging candy? I do. We made our children work for their Easter baskets. They were handed a clue written on scrap paper which led them to another clue, then another, then another, then another. Eventually, figuring out these clues led them to the big prize.

Richard and I also hosted an Easter egg hunt for the neighborhood in the park across the street from our house. We had so many more resources than the other families living in this neighborhood and wanted to enhance Easter morning for the children in the neighborhood. The park, where drugs were sold at night, became something very different on Easter morning.

The hunt we prepared for our sons and the hunt in the park reminds me of how we might receive Easter morning in 2021. For over a year now

we have been hunting for connections, relief, safety, jobs, financial resources, sanity, and meaning. Looking under rocks, in the bushes, around trees, high places and low places for some little prize. None of us has escaped exasperation.

Easter morning promises resurrection, new birth, renewal, and spring. And so does this Easter Sunday. Though we remain in a pandemic, we have experienced some promise and hope. More and more people are vaccinated and we can see the flicker of light at the end of this most disturbing tunnel. It is good, this Easter, to reflect on our hunt and our resiliency. This season of renewal allows us the space to prepare ourselves for an eventual season of resurrecting our friendships, our being together, our sense of what matters, and being embraced.

These are the small and hidden prizes we long for. May your hunt, your search, continue and be fruitful. May you transform your park. Take it slow! No one likes a belly ache! Blessings to you as we enter a renewed and more hopeful time.

- Blessings, CJ

BOARD NOTES (cont'd from page 2)

The engineering plans for the deck replacement have been received. A request for proposals (RFP) will be submitted to potential contractors. We are looking for recommended firms to receive the RFP. If you have had a good experience with a contractor for this

kind of construction please let me know. The replacement cost for deck construction is a Wish List item. There is not enough money in the capital fund to cover the anticipated costs. Replenishing the capital fund might be a good place to donate part of your COVID stimulus check...hint, hint.

If you have comments or suggestions for your Board of Directors, please email All Faiths or contact me (239-770-0795 or gcstotler@gmail.com) or other Board members.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021, at 1 p.m. via Zoom.

JOYS & SORROWS

With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys & sorrows expressed by our members in March.

Susan Anthony has completed a course of chemo and radiation treatments after a cancer diagnosis. We hold her in our healing thoughts and prayers.

Glenn Camp is recovering well from the heart attack that he had last month. He and Diana are at their home in Iowa.

Louise Close shared the joy of having their second grandson, Jackson McNaughton, who was born weighing 9 pounds 2 ounces.

Carol Elrod tripped over a curb at Shell Point and broke both her wrists and cut her head. We send healing thoughts her way.

Nathalie Hahn has moved to Punta Gorda to live with her daughter. She looks forward to staying in touch by phone calls.

Jennifer and Nicole McDaigle are expecting a baby in September. Congratulations to them and big sister, Quillen!

Through this long year of the COVID-19 pandemic, your loving concern for each other has been particularly important. We are blessed to have such a caring community at All Faiths.

If you have a joy or sorrow to share, you can send a message to care@allfaithsua.org.

Joyce Ramay

Care and Support Coordinator

Happening at All Faiths

*Happy April
Birthday to you!*



April 1 Carol Heilsberg
April 3 Bill Snider
April 4 Barbara Goolsby
April 10 Diana Camp
April 19 Diane Cartwright
April 20 Joy Reinhart
April 24 Ann Batal
April 24 Louise "Weezie" Close
April 27 Kathleen Weber

And Coming Up...

May 7 Ed Kleinow
May 13 Annely Hudanick

TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/7787257501>



April 7 - The Gospels sometimes contradict each other in their descriptions of Jesus' early years and not much is known about how he spent his childhood. Now archaeology can help uncover some clues about his early influences and even his birth.

April 14 - The first century historian Flavius Josephus is the scholar most frequently quoted when it comes to the facts of Christ's time. Does archaeology support his accounts?

April 21 - Tradition holds that God dictated the first five books of the Bible to Moses. The Bible says millions of people witnessed this event, but what does archaeology prove? Could it really be Moses himself who wrote down the words God spoke? What does archeology say?

April 28 - A miracle is a concrete example of divine intervention and proof of the supernatural power of God. The Christian Bible tells us that Jesus performed at least 36 miracles in his lifetime, most of them in the Galilee. But was Jesus the only miracle maker of his time?



Solos Group Events

Friday, April 9, 1:00 p.m.
*Outdoor Luncheon
at Bahama Breeze*

*Don't lose track of your Solos friends.
Check your email for details.*

Contact: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the Solos
for outings and lunches.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Mondays: Schedule a one-on-one meeting with the Minister
via Zoom, or in person

Wednesdays: Ten O'clock Scholar 10 a.m.

Thursdays: Zoom Coffee Hour - 11:30 a.m.

Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering 7-9 p.m.

Sundays: Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan - 9 a.m.


Zoom Youth Religious Education - 10:30 a.m.
(check calendar for dates)

Zoom Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE

The Sunday service is streamed *live* at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, on our public Facebook page: www.facebook.com/allfaithsuc, or go to YouTube.com and search "All Faiths."

April 2021 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11:30am Coffee Hour	2	3
4 9:00am News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff EASTER	5	6 1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg.	7 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 4) 6:30m Meet-&-Greet with <i>Chantel Rhodes</i> , DCYP	8 11:30am Coffee Hour 7pm Youth RE Zoom Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	9 1pm Solos Outdoor Lunch at Bahama Breeze	10
11 9:00am News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service on Facebook (Youth RE) 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	12 10am Sun. Service Team Mtg. 12pm Book Club 7pm LIFE RALLY	13 10am Racial Justice Team Mtg.	14 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 4)	15 10 am Finance Mtg. 11:30am Coffee Hour 2pm Homeless Team 7pm-Youth RE Zoom Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	16	17
18 9:00am News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service on Facebook (Youth RE) 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	19 7pm Odyssey <i>Annely Hudanick</i>	20	21 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 4) 1pm Board Meeting	22 11:30am Coffee Hour  7pm-Youth RE Zoom Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	23	24
25 9:00am News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service on Facebook (Youth RE) 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	26 7pm LIFE <u>NEHEMIAH</u> <u>ACTION</u>	27	28 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 4)	29 11:30am Coffee Hour 7pm-Youth RE Zoom Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	30	31
<p>All Meetings and Social Events are Held via Zoom Zoom Links are Sent via Email Prior to Events</p>						

APRIL 2021 SUNDAY SERVICES "TRANSFORMATION"

Livestreamed on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

Recorded and available at www.allfaithsuu.org
or on our YouTube channel

In-House attendance (limited to 15 persons)
by prior reservation

April 4 – Celebrating a UU Easter

Reflections by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer & Guest Violinist,
Alfonso Giordano

April 11 – A Community of Transformation

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

April 18 – Celebrating Earth Day

Message by Holley Rauén

Music by Dan Tudor & Joan Marshall

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

April 25 – Remaining Awake

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

News Talk with Richard Keelan

9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Youth RE

10:30 a.m. on Zoom - check calendar for dates

Coffee Talk with Staff

11:30 a.m. on Zoom

INTRODUCING CHANTEL RHODES AS ALL FAITHS' DIRECTOR OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS



Upon recommendation by our Minister and the search committee consisting of Marsha Bates, Rachel Spiller, Regina Kilmartin, and Emmie Wakefield, our Board of Directors has named *Chantel Rhodes* as Director of Child and Youth Programs. Chantel will begin in this role on April 5, 2021.

Chantel will coordinate religious exploration programs for our children and youth, will connect with families, coordinate volunteers and outreach, and collaborate as staff with our staff team. Chantel comes to us with many gifts. She earned her Master of Social Work from Georgia State University, her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from the University of South Florida, and Advanced Certification in teaching English as a foreign language from Columbia University.

Chantel has traveled the world as a teacher, leader, and advocate. She has been a mentor for the Boys and Girls Club, for parenting teens and a Child Advocate within the Lee Health System. She was the leader for Civic Engagement at Georgia State University and for a refugee resettlement program.

Chantel has extensive experience with curricula development, outreach, and student counseling. Chantel, who lives and grew up in Fort Myers, has been involved with human rights campaigns her entire adult life. She first joined the Black Lives Matter movement while studying to get her master's degree at Georgia State University in Atlanta. She comes to us with a clear understanding of our Unitarian Universalist faith and commitment to social action. Diversity, exploration, and searching are parts of her theology. Chantel has found a spiritual home within UUism and embodies our values and beliefs. There will be a Zoom meeting where you can meet and chat with Chantel scheduled in April. Please watch your email for details so you can participate. All Faiths adds Chantel to our list of many blessings.

Contact Chantel at chantelrhodes1908@gmail.com

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS 2021-2022

On April 1, 2021 we begin a new year of child and youth programs. Our Director of Child and Youth Programs, *Chantel Rhodes*, will begin coordinating programs and working with our children, youth, and families on April 5, 2021. Our programs are scheduled for 35 weeks per fiscal year, plus opportunities for our children and youth to participate in our Sunday services. During the pandemic the program will be implemented via Zoom on scheduled Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m., and on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. so all can participate. The congregation is invited to join the Thursday evening program. Watch your email and newsletter to learn how to connect.

When we gather again, we will return to our live Sunday morning program. Our children and youth will engage the curriculum *Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints*. This curriculum is about people of diverse faiths working for more love and justice in their corners of the world, even when that means rocking the religious boat. With original portraits from more than two dozen artists and engaging profiles of people from different faiths and different eras, these are stories that inspire, educate, challenge, and encourage. In particular, *Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints* emphasizes the stories of women, LGBTQ people, people of color, Indigenous people, and others who are too often written out of religious narratives. These stories move us towards more love and a faith that works for the common good of us all.

Child and Youth Programs for April 2021

April 4 - Children and Youth are invited to participate in our live streamed Easter service.

April 11 - Maryam Molkara was a devout Muslim and a transgender woman from Iran. She endured many injustices because of her gender identity, including imprisonment and physical assault. One day in 1987, she walked into Ayatollah Khomeini's office to ask for the religious and legal right to live as a woman.

April 18 - Bayard Rustin is the Civil Rights hero most people don't know about. He was a key advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and helped convince Dr. King to fully embrace non-violent resistance as an ideology. Bayard was the chief organizer of the March on Washington in 1963 where Dr. King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. However, Bayard was also a gay man in an era when that was considered a liability (not to mention a crime), so he had to stay in the background.

April 25 - Rabbi Regina Jonas was the first woman ordained as a Rabbi, but her story was almost lost to history because her ordination took place in 1935 in Berlin, Germany, and, tragically, she was killed at Auschwitz. Regina wrote her thesis on whether or not women could be rabbis according to sacred Jewish texts and religious laws and helped set up a secret synagogue at the concentration camp where the Nazis took her in 1942.

**Join the Thursday evening Youth Social Gathering on Zoom
on April 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7pm**

Please join us for a Meet and Greet with Chantel Rhodes, our new Director of Child & Youth Programs on April 7 at 6:30 p.m. Keep an eye on your emails for the Zoom link.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



On April 22 the world will celebrate Earth Day. For many, those celebrations will be held online, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to negate the advisability of large in-person events. Your Climate Action Team has been asked to participate in the Sunday service on April 18th to lead the All Faiths congregation in our Earth Day celebration. We hope you will join us to hear CAT member Holley Rauhen, a lay leader from our sister congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers and founder and leader of the Southwest Florida Pachamama Alliance group, give our Earth Day message. Climate Action Team leader, Joan Marshall will be performing several songs, with Dan Tudor as her accompanist.

Thanks to the efforts of CAT member, Gerald Goen, our March meeting was devoted to a highly informative and uplifting presentation by Dr. Greg Tolley, the head of the FGCU Water School, an extraordinary and vital resource being developed here at our local university. Its mission to help foster water security is broad based, for as Dr. Tolley observed, water is part of a system that impacts many other aspects of life. Consequently, the Water School is comprehensive in its reach and interdisciplinary in its approach, integrating faculty from across many different university departments and disciplines. It has also reached out into the community forming an Advisory Council of community leaders and developing partnerships with school systems, environmental organizations, and other universities. We encourage you to take the time to watch a recording of this presentation which you will find here: www.facebook.com/allfaithsuc. It's also on You Tube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK4eTbVCAKA>.

Our thanks to Regina Kilmartin and Sharon Gray for making this recording available.

Our next CAT meeting will be on Tuesday, April 6 at 1:30 p.m. We invite you to join us online to discuss plans for CAT activities and those of our partner organizations over the next few months. We suggest you also mark your calendar now to join the CAT meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4 when we will be hosting a presentation by the head of the Agribusiness Department at FGCU, Dr. Fritz Roka, who will be addressing the role of agriculture in dealing with our climate crisis. It will take all of us, working together, to truly heal the earth.

Come join us as we continue to find new ways to help make a difference.

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

There are important dates upcoming for Lee Interfaith for Empowerment:

- March 30, 6 to 8 pm: Affordable Housing Action Team is hosting a training session (via zoom) for City officials on affordable housing trust funds. Other attendees will include state and national experts on implementing affordable housing trust funds and housing developers. LIFE hopes to show local officials that many of their constituents are concerned about the issue. Several All Faiths members have registered to attend this meeting.

- April 12, 7 to 8 pm: This year, the Annual Rally for network members which is scheduled each year two weeks before the Nehemiah Action will be held via zoom. At the Rally, network members will hear updates about research conducted by the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Action Team as well as progress made on the Affordable Housing initiative LIFE has worked on for the past two years. Attendees will also be briefed about logistics related to the Nehemiah Action and will be given tips on how to invite people (fellow congregants, friends, family) to the Nehemiah Action. You must pre-register to attend the Rally at: https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJmldumtqTgsGdXSpq1itaG7pEvUikr_-HRe

After you pre-register, you will be sent the link to the Rally.

- April 26, 7 pm: LIFE's Nehemiah Action will also be held via zoom. It promises to be an informative, and hopefully productive, meeting. Sheriff Marceno, Ft. Myers Mayor Anderson and other local officials will be attending the Action. It is important that LIFE demonstrates people power at this meeting to give the officials incentive to address the concerns we raise. Once your Team Leaders (Donalie Benyak, Lana Cowell, Marsha Bates) receive the link to the Action, it will be forwarded to network members and congregants who have indicated they will attend.

Save the Dates

LIFE Rally - April 12 at 7 p.m.

Nehemiah Action - April 26 at 7 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets - February 2021

Iberiabank Checking	\$15,752
Iberiabank Op. Reserve	25,024
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,700
Raymond James Legacy	37,025
Pay Pal	35
Iberiabank Capital Fund	<u>7,336</u>
Total	\$105,872
Prior Month	<u>101,480</u>
Net Gain	\$ 4,392

February 2021 P&L

Operating Income	\$ 29,407
Operating Expense	<u>25,903</u>
Net Gain	\$ 3,504

Revenue/Operating Income increased significantly in February, compared to January. Some of the increased revenue is from the pledge drive for our next fiscal year (2021-22). Even though those donations are received as cash revenue in the current fiscal year (2020-21), the donations are recorded as a donation towards the new pledge drive for 2021-22. These are critical and difficult times for all of us; your generosity is appreciated!

The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of February was \$88,586.37. This is significant progress because on April 1, 2019 the mortgage principal balance was \$151,234.48!

The Small Business Administration PPP loan was approved on May 1, 2020; and the \$27,300 loan was deposited on May 5. We anticipate that the loan will be forgiven and treated as a grant by the SBA once proper documentation is submitted. Susan Anthony of the Finance Committee is taking the lead on the necessary paperwork to help ensure that the documentation is sufficient and completed on a timely basis.

In February, \$1,395 was collected for All Faiths' annual gift to the UUA (for our 2021-2022 fiscal year). These funds will be sent to the UUA this coming summer, so there is still time for congregants to contribute to the gift.

FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Judy Alberda

The Heart for the Homeless Team is currently supplying the new Day Resource Center of the Salvation Army with fruit for their coffee room four times a month. They are now having a fence being constructed which I believe will give them room to expand their seating. It is open for clients from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. every day including holidays. There is a coffee room, computers, classes, all social services, laundry facilities and showers. At first they had 20 to 25 a day stopping in. Now it is 70 to 90! No wonder they need more seating. We have flyers to hand out to people asking for assistance on various street corners so they are aware of this new facility.

At the last Lee County Homeless Coalition meeting, Roger Mercado of Lee County Human and Veteran Services reported that their goal of housing 100 households in 100 days has been met. They are beginning the same initiative in April. We are celebrating this amazing progress for those who have fallen through the cracks of our society. Roger approached the Fort Myers City Council and they designated \$1.9 million dollars to pay for hotel stays and the costs incurred in the Rapid Rehousing program operated by the Salvation Army. Looks like we're all on the same page when it comes to compassionate care for the poor.

The Heart for the Homeless Team meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome to join us.

VOLUNTEERISM - IT'S A GOOD THING

HELP OTHERS * MAKE A DIFFERENCE * FIND PURPOSE

FEEL INVOLVED * CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

CONTRIBUTE TO A CAUSE THAT YOU CARE ABOUT

USE YOUR SKILLS IN A PRODUCTIVE WAY

DEVELOP NEW SKILLS * MEET NEW PEOPLE

EXPLORE NEW AREAS OF INTEREST

All Faiths is looking for a team (4-5 people) to organize an online Auction as a fund raiser. Last March we had to cancel our auction due to COVID. Many non-profits have turned to online auctions that have proven to be very successful. Ariel Hoover was kind enough to do some research and obtain information on the process, now we need a team to make it happen. If you can help, please contact the office at 239-226-0900.

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

by Chris Stotler, Chair, Board of Directors

On Sunday March 28 we held our Annual Meeting for the first time by a combination of in-person attendees and those attending via Zoom. It certainly presented some challenges, but we completed the agenda and voted. Per feedback received, most participants felt it was successful. The vote outcomes were:

- Approved bylaws changes to allow virtual meetings and voting and to change the minimum age of membership from 18 to 14.
- Created the Director of Child and Youth Programs staff position (rather than the Director serving in a consultant position).
- Approved the budget for the year at \$235,023.
- Elected Ed Elrod as Secretary for his second term. Elected Board of Directors Rachel Spiller (2nd term), Peter Erickson (2nd term), and Ernie Reid (1st term).
- Elected Nominating Committee members Susan Meissner (2nd term), Janet Falk (1st term) and Dottie Mayol (1st term).

The valuable contributions to the Board by Annely Hudanick for the past four years was recognized. She completed her second term. Rev. CJ McGregor paid homage to those who experienced Rights of Passage during the preceding year.

I want to thank all participants for patience and understanding as we worked through the virtual meeting process for the first time. Thank you to the Nominating Committee and By Laws Committee for their input, as well as all others helping with the meeting.

BOOK CLUB - EVERY 2ND MONDAY



The Book Club is meeting via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of the month at 12:00 p.m. If you are on the Book Club email list, you will receive a Zoom link prior to the meeting. If you would like to join the Book Club or check to see if you are on the list, please contact Diane Chernow at dianecher@comcast.net.

APRIL'S ODYSSEY ANNELY HUDANICK

Monday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.
(Check your email for the Zoom link.)



Annely is a long-time member of All Faiths. She has volunteered her time, talent and treasure in a variety of ways over the years. She leads Operation Joy, one of our most important outreach programs benefiting children, she organizes the Solos group, and she recently finished serving a long stint on All Faiths' Board of Directors. Please join us to learn more about Annely. Hosted by Rev. CJ with Q&A to follow.



ACMA APRIL CONCERTS

The ACMA Facebook page is updated every Saturday with YouTube or music links from our scheduled artist for that date. Also check out new concerts outdoors at the Alliance for the Arts.

Tuesday, April 6

World premiere/CD release party for
Bill Burkett on FB page

Saturday, April 17

YouTube Concert with Claudia Schmidt,
Chuck Williams opens.
See our FB page for links and details

Saturday, April 24

Sally Barris Facebook LiveStream
John Tilley opens.

Sunday, April 25

Zoom Workshop with Sally Barris

HOW ARE YOU CARING FOR YOUR SPIRIT?

by Rev. Susan Fredrick Gray, UUA President

How is your spirit—your body and mind and heart—these days? It's early in the new year and already there has been so much tragedy. Terrifying hate crimes, devastating fires in Australia, escalating conflict with Iran, daily breaking news on the president's impeachment. Honestly, I don't know what more might have happened between me writing this and you receiving it. That's how difficult these times are.

It's okay if you are feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or depressed. We are all holding a lot right now. Given this, it matters that we ask ourselves and one another, how are you caring for your spirit?

I don't know the origins of this teaching, but I heard Unitarian Universalist minister the Rev. Harry Scholefield say he began every day with an hour of spiritual practice. He said he did this every day, unless he was really overwhelmed. In that case, he did it for two hours. Imperfectly, I try to follow the meaning of this lesson. When I do, I find I am more prepared to meet the day from a foundation of what is most dear to me: the values of compassion, generosity, integrity, and courage.

2020 marks the ten-year anniversary of the passage of Arizona Senate bill SB 1070—a caustic anti-immigrant bill that sought to make the unconstitutional practices of Sheriff Joe Ar-

paisio state law. The passage of that bill led to some of the most intense events in the decade-long campaign to stop Arpaio's abuses. Thinking back, I remember how it was the pressures of 2010 that got me back to my daily spiritual practice. The intensity of that campaign forced me back to the cushion—back to my spiritual practice.

I also remember my congregation at the time, who were deeply a part of this work, focusing on spiritual

It is essential that we find ways to breathe life into that which reminds us of our power, our humanity, our compassion, and our interdependence.

practice, theology, and themes of compassion, forgiveness, humility, generosity, joy, and hope. This felt critical to nurturing resiliency to stay in the struggle. So many knew the injustice and pain personally. What we needed was to feel the strength of our values, to feel the care of a deeply connected community, to celebrate the wholeness and possibility of the conditions we were fighting for and trying to bring to life.

I see how hard so many of you are working for justice. I know those of you in congregational leadership—whether staff, volunteer leaders, or teachers—have to give so much to care for your people. Many of you are doing this

beyond the congregation, in the larger community or in your workplace. How do we lead and offer hope and care when our own hearts are broken? How do we maintain our energy and keep showing up when we ourselves are weary? How are you caring for your spirit?

There is not one right way to care for your spirit, but making time for it is important. I remember a Buddhist friend who would recite the names of the Buddha during

ship, and individually in practice—to breathe life into that which reminds us of our power, our humanity, our compassion, and our interdependence. In these times, it is crucial that our communities engage in the practices and spirit that feed the resilience we need to stay connected and engaged in the work of nurturing a world of justice and peace.

How are you caring for your spirit?

Yours in love,

Susan

Susan Frederick-Gray

The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray is the ninth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She was elected in June 2017 to a six-year term after serving congregations in Phoenix, Arizona; Youngstown, Ohio; and Nashville, Tennessee. She lives with her husband, the Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray, and their son.



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2021 Registration Information

Registration for virtual GA 2021 is **\$200 per person**. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan are available. General Assembly registrants receive access to the 2021 Online Participation Portal, including live, semi-live, and on-demand video content, the virtual exhibit hall, chat features, support, and a (**new!**) GA mobile app.

[Adult Registration](#) [Youth Registration](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#) [Financial Support](#)

Registration for General Assembly is the same for delegates and non-delegates. [How a congregation's delegates are determined](#). Registrations must be for specific individuals and are non-transferable. Each registrant should have a unique email address to facilitate logon to the Online Participation Portal. Once registered, you will be sent email confirmation from generalassembly@uua.org. You may cancel a GA registration by replying to your registration confirmation or contacting the GA Registrar at generalassembly@uua.org. The cancellation fee is \$50 per person.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 226-0900 – Email: office@allfaithsuu.org – Website: www.allfaithsuu.org

Executive Board: Chris Stotler, Chair; Rachel Spiller, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Ed Elrod, Secretary; Diane Cartwright, Past Chair.

Directors: Marge DiGalbo, Peter Erickson, Eileen Moran, Ernie Reid, Linda Runkle.

Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Joseph Brauer, Music Director; Chantel Rhodes, Child & Youth Programs Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton.

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

Communications

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Carol Elrod,

Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin,

Sharon Gray, Becky Ross

Adult Education Forums

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Richard Keelan

Member Services

Fran Way

Greeters

Marsha Bates

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Howard Silverman & Janet Falk

Nominating Committee

t/b/d

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Building and Grounds

Michael Pierre

Social Action & Outreach

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall

Community Events

Richard Keelan

Heart for the Homeless

Barb McFarlane

Racial Justice Team

Rachel Spiller

L.I.F.E.

Marsha Bates, Donalie Benyak,

Lana Cowell

McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

Minister: Rev. CJ McGregor - Cell: 508-736-3361



Deadline for the **May** Issue of *Connections* is **April 18**

(Brief announcements may be accepted later, and will be included *if* space and time permit.)



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday thru Thurs;
9am to 12pm, Friday and Sunday.
Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin